

# South Dakota National Guard

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Sen. Rounds receives operational update on SD National Guard**

RAPID CITY, S.D. – United States Sen. Mike Rounds met with leaders from the South Dakota National Guard on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at Camp Rapid to receive an operational overview of the state's nearly 4,200 member force.

As the former commander-in-chief of the SDNG, Rounds knows the state's Army and Air Guard missions well, but the visit brought him up to date on their current capabilities, operations and future challenges, since his time as governor.

Rounds met with the Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG, and other senior staff leaders.

"We appreciate Senator Rounds taking time out of his schedule to give us an opportunity to give him an operational summary on the current state of the South Dakota National Guard," said Reisch. "There are a number of national issues that impact our organization such as future fighting strength, budget cuts and support for our service members and veterans."

Rounds, who serves on the Senate Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs committees, is in a key position to provide input on legislation that impacts the nation's military.

"Our goal for today's briefing is to provide Senator Rounds with some additional insight on how these national impacts are effecting, and could continue to affect, the National Guard here at the state level," said Reisch.

"The South Dakota National Guard continues to do incredible work and provide essential services to South Dakotans," said Rounds. "I thank Guard leaders for meeting with me in Rapid City and bringing me up to speed on current affairs. As a member of both the Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs committees, I will continue to seek ways to support our National Guard and all men and women in uniform who serve our country."

Topics covered were the National Defense Authorization Act – a national commission to assess the Army's active and reserve components' size and force mix; impacts of the Budget Control Act – across-the-board spending cuts effects on force structure size and operational readiness; and the Aviation Restructure Initiative.

"The SDNG is doing everything it can to maximize training opportunities and resources to remain relevant, ready and reliable in light of continuing DoD cuts, Army restructuring and the effects of sequestration," said Reisch. "The National Guard provides immense value to the taxpayer for domestic and overseas missions at a fraction of the cost to the active duty component."



**150217-Z-TL267-001:** United States Sen. Mike Rounds visits with Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, during a visit to Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D., Feb. 17, 2015. Rounds received an operational overview of the SDNG on their current capabilities, operations and future challenges. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss/Released)



**150217-Z-TL267-001:** United States Sen. Mike Rounds receives a brief from Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, during a visit to Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D., Feb. 17, 2015. Rounds received an operational overview of the SDNG on their current capabilities, operations and future challenges. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss/Released)

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